

## Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 RSR-01 /123 W  
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R 161305 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2529

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND PINT UG

SUBJECT: GENERAL AMIN HANDS OVER LARGE ASIAN AND  
BRITISH ESTATES TO FAMILY OF LATE KABAKA

SUMMARY: AT IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY AT GEGEDDE NEAR MUKONO MARY 15  
ATTENDED BY THOUSANDS OF EAST BUGANDANS, GOVERNMENT, MILITARY  
LEADERS, DIPLOMATS, GENERAL AMIN HANDED OVER TWO TEA AND SUGAR  
ESTATES, TOGETHER WITH TEA FACTORY AND JAGGERY, TO FAMILY OF  
LATE KABAKA OF BUGANDA, SIR EDWARD MUTESA. THIS MOVE OBVIOUSLY  
DESIGNED TO WIN SUPPORT AND LOYALTY FROM IMPORTANT BAGANDA TRIBE  
WHICH STILL LARGELY DEVOTED TO KABAKASHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. ESTATES IN QUESTION BELONGED TO ASIAN ( DHAMJI) AND BRITISH  
( GORTON) INTERESTS BEFORE BEING TAKEN OVER LAST FALL. GOU  
ESTIMATES THEY ARE WORTH 3.5 MILLION SHILLINGS AND RETURN AN  
ANNUAL NET INCOME OF HALF MILLION SHILLINGS. THEY COVER 2,000  
ACRES AND EMPLOY 1,000 PEOPLE. GOU HAS PAID OFF BANK DEBT  
OWED BY THESE BUSINESSES AND AMIN PROMISED GOU WOULD ITSELF  
PAY PREVIOUS OWNERS COMPENSATION, SO KABAKA'S FAMILY IS GETTING  
A FREE GIFT, UNLIKE OTHER NEW BUSINESS OWNERS.

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2. GENERAL AMIN PERSONALLY HANDED OVER BUSINESS CERTIFICATES AND LAND DEEDS TO CHIEF PRINCE OF BUGANDA ROYAL FAMILY KNOWN AS THE SSABALANGIRA. PROPERTIES WERE RENAMED MUTESA ESTATE LTD. REPLYING FOR FAMILY, LATE KABAKA' S UNCLE, PRINCE BADRU KAKUNGULU, DELIVERED FULSOME PRAISE OF GENERAL INCLUDING REMARK THAT HE WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS " FIRST PRESIDENT OF UGANDA TO KICK OUT THE NON- CITIZEN ASIANS AND THE BAZUNGU" ( SOMEWHAT PEJORATIVE SWAHILI/ LUGANDA TERM FOR WHITES). LADY DAMALI, SIR EDWARD' S WIDOW, DID NOT ATTEND CEREMONY BUT SENT LETTER OF APOLOGY, EXPLAINING THAT SHE FELL ILL AT EASTER SERVICE AT RUBAGA CATHEDRAL AND HAS BEEN CONFINED TO BED ON DOCTOR' S ORDERS EVER SINCE. LETTER WAS READ AT CEREMONY. NUMBER OF OTHER MEMBERS OF SIR EDWARD' S FAMILY ATTENDED, BUT NOT CHILDREN ( GENERAL EXPLAINED HE HAD DECIDED THEY SHOULD STAY IN SCHOOL IN EUROPE).

3. IN SPEECH DELIVERED ON OCCASION AMIN WAS FULL OF PRAISE FOR LATE KABAKA. HE MADE SEVERAL REFERENCES TO DEATH, RETURN OF BODY FROM UK, AND BURIAL ( SOME FANATIC BAGANDA BELIEVE KABAKA IS STILL ALIVE). GENERAL SAID HIS ACTION OF GIVING FAMILY IMPORTANT BUSINESSES MARKS " END OF PHASE OF UNCERTAINTY ( FOR FAMILY), OF BEING UNWANTED, SUSPECTED AND ISOLATED."

4. OTHER THEME STRESSED BY GENERAL WAS THAT THE " GENERAL AMIN OPERATION" INCLUDES MASS MOBILIZATION OF EVERYABLE- BODIED MAN. HE DESCRIBED PEOPLE WHO DO NOT WORK AS " PARASITES" AND ISSUED AN " EARLY WARNING" TO THEM THAT IF THEY DON' T START WORKING THEY WILL BE " ROUNDED UP AND TAUGHT HOW TO CONTRIBUTE."

5. COMMENT: AMIN SAID HE HAD TAKEN DECISION TO GIVE MUTESA' S FAMILY THESE BUSINESSES DESPITE SOME OPPOSITION FROM HIS CABINET. HE EXPLAINED THAT WHEN SIR EDWARD FLED HIS COUNTRY ALL HIS PROPERTY HAD BEEN DESTROYED, UNLIKE WHAT HAPPENED TO OBOTE' S. ALTRUISM ASIDE, THIS IS NOT A BAD TACTIC ON AMIN' S PART TO ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE THE LOYALTY OF THE BAGANDA.  
KEELEY

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